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The spectrum of the spot has been observed by Dr. CREW, who has printed a note on the subject in *Astronomy and Astro-Physics* for April, 1892.

E. S. H.

THE NEW STAR IN AURIGA, FEBRUARY, 1892.

Professor PICKERING of the Harvard College Observatory has kindly sent us prints from his negatives of 1890, February 6, and of 1891, December 17, which cover the region in *Auriga* where the new star has lately appeared (R. A. $5^h 25^m$; Decl. $+ 30^\circ 21'$). The new star is not on the first plate and it appears on the second. It has therefore been of something like its present brightness since December 17 at least. It was not known to exist, however, until February 1, when a postal-card was sent by Dr. ANDERSON of Edinburgh (its discoverer) to the Astronomer-Royal of Scotland. The discovery was at once verified by him and notified by telegraph to observatories in Europe. The news arrived in the United States on February 2, but the telegram did not reach Mt. Hamilton until February 6. Since that time it has been constantly under observation here. Dr. CREW has printed a preliminary account of its visible spectrum in *Astronomy and Astro-physics* for April, 1892. Professor CAMPBELL has observed both its visible and its photographic spectrum on every available opportunity and has fixed the place of about 50 bright lines and bands. We have received from the Harvard College Observatory a splendid enlargement from negatives of its photographic spectrum made in Cambridge. Plates suitable for measurement showing its relation to comparison stars near it have been made at Mt. Hamilton with the great equatorial, and Professor BURNHAM has measured its distance from surrounding stars. Professors SCHAEBERLE and CAMPBELL have made naked eye and opera-glass estimates of its visual brightness on nearly every night since February 6. Professor SCHAEBERLE has also secured a large number of plates with the CROCKER photographic telescope which show the new star and *Polaris*, with varying exposures, and which are eminently suitable for fixing its photographic magnitude. Besides such short exposures (1^s — 2^s — 4^s — 8^s — 16^s — 32^s — 64^s — 128^s) the latter observer has made a few long exposures on the same region, when the circumstances were favorable, giving all the stars down to about 13 mag. The star is now (March 10) invisible to the naked eye. The reports we have so far received indicate that the weather has not been very favor-

able in the East and in Europe, and it is therefore a matter for congratulation that our sky at Mt. Hamilton has been unusually clear during the past month, so that almost a continuous record has been secured at this observatory. E. S. H.

A HANDY STAR-ATLAS (MESSER'S).

I have lately seen a Star-Atlas compiled by Herr JACOB MESSER, of St. Petersburg, which is very compendious (the page is about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches and the book is about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick), and which, I should think, would be found extremely convenient for amateur observers who do not care to burden themselves with the larger works.

It contains all the stars visible to the naked eye (1st to 6th magnitudes, inclusive), from the north pole down to 35° south declination, together with a selection of the most interesting double stars, variables, nebulae, clusters, etc.

The atlas is published in two editions, one German, the other Russian. There are some 250 pages of introductory matter specially designed for amateur observers. E. S. H.

A LARGE NEW NEBULA IN AURIGA.

On receiving the announcement, February 6th, of the discovery of Nova Aurigæ, Professor HOLDEN requested me to use the CROCKER telescope for photographic observations on this star. The same day (February 6th) the WILLARD lens was, therefore, strapped to the 6-inch CLARK equatorial and a series of exposures made that evening. Similar observations have been made on every clear night up to the present time.

On a plate which I exposed for 150^m on the evening of March 21st, I find a large and apparently new nebula in R. A. $5^h 9^m.5$ Dec. $+34^\circ 10'$. The north preceding part of this nebula is in the form of a comparatively slender ray which seems to have its origin in the star W. B. 5^h , No. 151. This ray gradually widens—the northern boundary running in an easterly direction for a quarter of a degree or more; the southern boundary runs in a southeasterly direction, passing just a little to the north of the star W. B. 5^h , No. 162 (a naked-eye star), around which it appears to bend and then takes a southerly course extending more than a quarter of a degree beyond this star.

In a southeasterly direction the length of the nebula visible on